

REMARKS

Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 12-16 and 24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 3-6, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 16 are amended, claims 17-23 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, and claim 24 is added. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, in Fig. 8B and in paragraphs [0116] to [0118]. No new matter is added.

I. Objection to Claims 8 and 13

The Office Action objects to claims 8 and 13 because of informalities. Claims 8 and 13 are amended responsive to the objection. Thus, it is requested that the objection be withdrawn.

II. §103(a) Rejection of Claims 2-6, 8, 9 and 12-23

The Office Action rejects claims 2-6, 8, 9 and 12-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Shimoda, U.S. Patent No. 6,430,235, in view of Chraplyvy et al. (Chraplyvy), U.S. Patent No. 6,205,268. The rejection of canceled claims 17-23 is moot. The rejection of claims 2-6, 8, 9 and 12-16 is respectfully traversed.

The combination of Shimoda and Chraplyvy fails to disclose or suggest (1) first and second optical waveguides that are provided on an integrated circuit chip, the second optical waveguide optically connecting second and fourth elements; and (2) a common light reflecting frame that reflects the first light and the second light, as recited in independent claim 16.

With respect to (1), the Office Action acknowledges that Shimoda fails to disclose an optical waveguide that optically connects the plurality of elements, but asserts that such features are disclosed by Chraplyvy. Chraplyvy discloses an optical fiber network 100 having a single optical fiber 130 that couples a plurality of light emitters 101, 111-1, 111-4, 121-1 and 121-16 to a plurality of light receivers 105, 115-1, 115-4, 125-1 and 125-16 (Fig.

1; col. 5, lines 15-24 and 28-31). The Office Action asserts that the single optical fiber 130 corresponds to a waveguide recited in claim 16. However, Chraplyvy only discloses using a single optical fiber 130 (col. 5, line 20; col. 6, lines 14 and 15). Chraplyvy does not disclose first and second optical waveguides that are provided on the integrated circuit chip, as recited in claim 16.

With respect to (2), neither Shimoda nor Chraplyvy discloses the common light reflecting frame recited in claim 16. Thus, claim 16 is patentable over the combination of Shimoda and Chraplyvy. Because claims 2-6, 8, 9, 12-15 and 24 incorporate the features of claim 16, these claims also are patentable. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

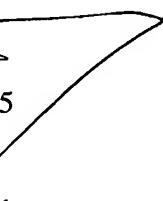
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2-6, 8, 9, 12-16 and 24 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place

this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination

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